



# MINOR

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Yesterday was when, exactly a half century ago, New Bernians happily hummed a brand new song, Ain't We Got Fun? Richard Whiting wrote the catchy tune. Most novelty numbers quickly give up the ghost. This one lingered.

Thirty years later, Warner Brothers included it in Gus Kahn's screen biography, I'll See You In My Dreams, and that same year used the song in a second musical, On Moonlight Bay.

Unbelievably, a couple of years after that the same Hollywood studio had Doris Day and Gordon MacRae sing it in a third musical, By The Light Of The Silvery Moon. Finally, a year later, Eddie Cantor did it in The Eddie Cantor Story, this one too by Warner Brothers.

Another 1921 offering from Tin Pan Alley took New Bern and the rest of the country by storm too. Noble Sissle, who had a fine dance band, teamed with Eubie Blake to write I'm Just Wild About Harry.

Florence Mills introduced it in an all-black musical, Shuffle Along. Broadway acclaimed the song instantly, and when Florence invaded London with it, her success was sensational.

Eighteen years later, Alice Faye sang it in a 20th Century-Fox film, Rose of Washington Square. Twelve months after that it was featured in another film, Broadway, starring George Raft and Pat O'Brien.

But there was more to come for I'm Just Wild About Harry. In 1943 it was injected into the Ted Lewis screen biography, Is Everybody Happy? Al Jolson belted it out in Jolson Sings Again in 1949, and Gus Kahn's afore-mentioned I'll See You In My Dreams gave it full treatment in 1951.

Getting back to a half century ago, what else were you New Bernians singing that year? Why, a number that bobs up on television at intervals, April Showers. Al Jolson introduced it in Bombo, a musical extravaganza at New York's Winter Garden.

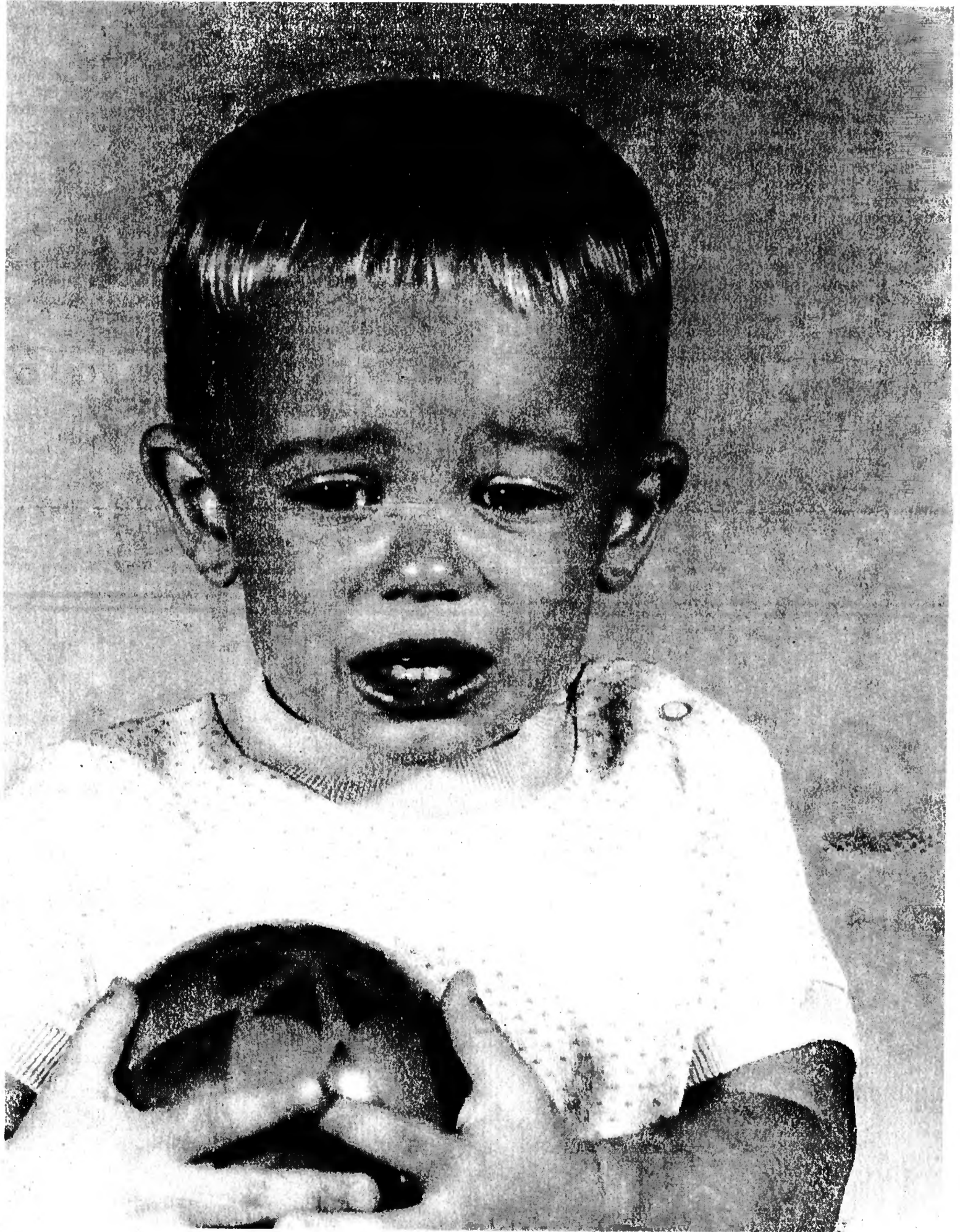
From that night on, the song would be forever associated with Jolson, and naturally it was featured in The Jolson Story, filmed a quarter of a century later, and Jolson Sings Again, three years after that. Al recorded the song in 1946 and it sold more than a million records.

There were still other Tin Pan Alley hits, back in 1921. If you're 60 or older, it's a cinch you can sing The Sheik of Araby without missing a word or a note.

However, you may be wrong on one point. It was not the theme song of The Sheik, starring Rudolph Valentino. To begin with, the film was silent. Harry Smith, Francis Wheeler and Ted Snyder wrote the number to capitalize on the movie's popularity.

It was introduced in a stage musical, Make It Snappy. Nineteen years later, Bill Gilbert, Alice Faye and Betty Grable gave it comic treatment in a 20th Century-Fox musical,

(Continued on page 8)



**TOUCH ALL OVER**—There are times in a fellow's life when he needs a friend. Like if you want to play ball with somebody, and there's no one around, or they're too busy doing something else. That ought not happen to a tot who hasn't even reached his second birthday. "Grant" Douglas Shirley of 517

Blades Avenue displays his disgust tearfully, and it should tug at your heart if you haven't forgotten how it was to be young yourself. His parents are the Douglas R. Shirleys, and grandparents are the Ray Shirleys and the Roy B. Ingrams, all of New Bern.